



# REBORN FOR THE VIEWS

BY MARINE APAP  
PHOTOGRAPHY ANA GALLOWAY

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1. APL Architectural Series exterior sliding doors open up the dining area to the deck
2. Entrance way with hand-made cedar doors and an American copper light

3. A deck with views across the seascape
4. The kitchen/dining with recycled rimu and an American vintage table and chairs from Edito

A couple fell in love at first sight when they inspected an old house nestled in the hills facing Nelson's iconic lighthouse – and then promptly bowled the house.

"It was a grey, rainy day," says the owner. "We were looking for a house to buy in Nelson, and decided to have a quick look at this charming old house, recommended by friends, and we immediately fell in love with the view."

The original project was a renovation, but "we ended up building a brand new house and only kept the wooden floor from the old house."

The owners have added a beautiful extension that includes two bedrooms and an en-suite bathroom, both well separated from the living spaces.

After 14 years spent overseas – Middle East and Thailand – "we got used to very warm climates and were very much concerned about the warmth, but the house has exceeded expectations," the owner says.

Facing northeast, the property is protected from the wind as it doesn't project out from the hillside. The new layout opens up the view, providing a series of lovely seascapes.

The total rebuild took more than eight months. "We retained quite a lot of the charm of the old house by keeping a 'bungalow style' that allowed the architects of Arthouse (Rachel Dodd and David Wallace) to design a very modern house with intimate interconnecting rooms." As a result, the house feels spacious and has a great flow.

The couple feel 'very happy with the general look of the house', even though they had to downsize, shedding furniture and accessories collected over the years. "I had to have a really good clear-out, coming from a big house with lots of storage, full of double-cupboards and triple closets," says the owner. "We had a lot of big, heavy and old colonial furniture that just did not work with this new modern and lighter-looking house."

The bathrooms have 'really lovely little finishes', she says, but her favourite space is 'the blue room'. "I like the moody sort of darkness and feel of 'cave' of that room. It's got a lovely view of the palm. You can see the boats going through the trees..."

The whole house has a subtle ethnic touch and a pretty, yet eclectic, style created by the art pieces and furniture. The couple brought back a lot of prints and original pieces that reminded them of New Zealand, and also collected pieces from the countries they lived in and visited. "We also have friends who are very interested in art and interior design who brought us a lot of inspiration. For example, the kitchen was designed with some friends over a series of dinners."

She concludes: "We felt really lucky in Nelson, with a great choice of suppliers and professionals when it came to renovating and furnishing our house."

A solid team, including Arthouse and builder Chris Andrews, supported the couple throughout the project: "Chris made us feel completely safe and secure. We never worried about the building – never." **WT**





5. Original rimu floors throughout the house
6. The owners' candle stick collection and Christine Boswijk platters
7. Light and spacious with lots of windows in the white sitting room
8. Part of an extensive collection of books
9. Modern furniture helps create a spacious feel
10. Open plan flow from kitchen/dining into the lounge



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**11, 12, 13.** The owners' favourite blue room; moody darkness with a cave feel to it  
**14, 15.** Lovely little finishes in the bathroom include a recycled rimu vanity made by Nick Smith; tiles from Tile and Slate and a basin from surfacedesign  
**16, 17.** Light airy touches in the bedroom, which features a hand-painted wall mural by Jo Tyson



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